

## REPLIES TO VEST

SENATOR PLATT ON OUR RIGHT TO ACQUIRE TERRITORY.

SAYS IT IS BEYOND QUESTION

SENATOR TELLS TO SPEAK ON THE VEST RESOLUTION TO-DAY.

Senators Not Agreed on Necessity for Sending a Commission to Cuba—Several Speeches Were Made on the Nicaragua Canal Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The senate had a busy day and there were several important speeches. Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, spoke against the Vest resolution, which declares that the United States has no power to acquire territory. He said that the power of a nation to acquire territory was as inherent as its sovereignty. The United States had the right to govern such territory in the best possible manner until the people of the acquired lands were capable of self-government.

Mr. Proctor, of Vermont, and Mr. Hale, of Maine, exchanged divergent views upon the subject of a commission of senators to visit Cuba. Mr. Proctor thought such a committee was necessary, while Mr. Hale said he thought it would be in extremely bad taste and useless.

The Nicaragua canal bill was up during the last part of the day and Senators Berry, Allen, Hoar, Caffery and Morgan discussed the measure.

Mr. Teller, of Colorado, gave notice that he would introduce a resolution to send Mr. Vest's anti-expansion resolution.

In accordance with notice previously given, Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, addressed the senate, opposing the resolution offered by Mr. Vest.

Mr. Platt's speech was a constitutional argument, maintaining the legal right of the United States to acquire territory, saying he did not propose to discuss the policy of expansion nor the features of the government we might establish in any foreign territory we might acquire. Expansion, he said, has been a law of our national development, the mainspring of our growth, and he believed that the United States has shown a great capacity for government in all trying times and under many trying conditions and that it is capable of meeting any emergency likely to arise. I shall maintain that the United States is a nation, and as such possesses every sovereign power not reserved by the constitution to the state or to the people themselves; that the right to acquire territory was not reserved, and that, therefore, the right is an inherent right of sovereignty. I shall show also that in certain instances this inherent sovereign right is to be inferred from specific clauses of the constitution itself.

Mr. Platt then launched into a constitutional argument, quoting extensively from authorities treating of the question, and also declared that in the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, the entire question of this government's right to acquire foreign territory was considered thoroughly and that the senate had settled it satisfactorily and rightly.

The United States, said he, have the right to acquire territory in all ways that are conceded to other sovereign nations of the world.

It might become necessary, in the interests of commerce, or some other interest, for the United States to acquire territory in Africa.

Should we be bound by the constitution to organize a state from such acquired territory and admit its inhabitants to citizenship?

"Suppose," he continued, "that the senator from Alabama (Mr. Morgan) secures the passage of his bill for the construction of the Nicaragua canal (and I pray he may) and it should be necessary for the United States to acquire a strip of land along the route of the canal of 2,500 acres—I think that is the amount suggested—can we not take it?"

"If we take it," he said, "the clause of the constitution, directly or indirectly, says we must organize the acquired territory or confer citizenship upon the people who inhabit it."

Mr. Platt declared that Chief Justice Taney's opinion in the Dred Scott case was a "mere dictum" and that it was too late in the day to resurrect the Dred Scott decision as a constitutional action on the part of the United States.

In response to a question from Mr. Allen, Mr. Platt said that he did not think there was any limitation on the part of the United States to acquire territory.

"As complete as the right to Russia, for instance, in such matters," asked Mr. Allen.

Yes, the right to acquire territory is an element of national sovereignty, and I believe there is any obligation to give to the people of the acquired territory the right of self-government until such time as they are able to exercise that right. If we believe the people of a country are not fit to be governed by themselves, it is our duty to give them the most liberal government they are capable of accepting and educate them as best we may to the point where they will be capable of self-government. The constitution does not confer the right of suffrage."

He went into this point at length, citing the fact that women and children are citizens, but don't vote; that neither are the citizens of the District of Columbia; that in Massachusetts those who could not read and write could not vote; that other states denied suffrage in part; it was, he said, a matter of state regulation.

Mr. Hoar asked Mr. Platt whether he deplored the doctrine that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Mr. Platt replied that the consent of all those governed was not necessary. When he first became a voter, he had to pay \$14 for real estate in order to receive the privilege of voting.

In conclusion, Mr. Platt said he could not understand the sentiments or motives of those who wished to circumscribe the powers of the nation.

Why, he asked, should we belittle those powers or strive by subtlety and sophistry to hamper the progress and growth of the country. Rather than pursue such a course, why should senators not wish the nation God speed in its mission of extending our institutions to the world?

As for himself, he knew our people to be a liberty loving and a right doing people, and he believed that the United States would fall in its duty toward the world.

He had faith in the government and faith in the future, and had no disposition to compromise with the enemies of our country or craven fear. He had not lost confidence in the doctrine that right makes might, and with a nation that believed that principle, he believed that it would dare to do duty bravely toward any people which might fall within the limits of its jurisdiction.

It had been only a little more than a century since the liberty bell had proclaimed the signing of the constitution and it was not for us now to declare that we cannot proclaim liberty to any land one foot from our original shores.

"Oh, for the faith of the fathers," he exclaimed.

The conference report on the urgent deficiency bill was read.

The bill granting the right of way through the San Francisco mountains for the proposed route of the Bagshaw Southern railroad, which passed the house on Saturday, was reported by the committee on general expenses, then attempted to report the resolution introduced by Mr. Proctor, providing for the appointment of a select committee of the senate to visit Cuba and report upon the conditions prevailing there.

The effort on Mr. Gallinger's part de-

## EXPORTS FOR '98

THEY WILL EXCEED THOSE OF ANY PREVIOUS YEAR.

WILL BE ABOVE \$1,250,000,000

IMPORT RECORD FOR 1898 IS NO LESS REMARKABLE.

Total Imports Less Than for Any Previous Calendar Year Since 1885—Balance of Trade Enormously in Favor of United States.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(Special.) The exports from the United States in the calendar year 1898 will exceed those of any previous year. Only twice in our history have the exports in a calendar year passed the billion dollar line: in 1885 they will be a billion and a quarter. During the eleven months of 1898 ending with November they are greater than in any full calendar year preceding, to the total for the eleven months being \$1,171,681,129, and it is apparent that the December statement will bring the grand total for the year above \$1,250,000,000.

The November, 1898, exports were \$121,781,512, and as those of December are almost invariably larger than those of November, it seems not unreasonable to believe that the total for the year will be above \$1,250,000,000. The November exports were not only the largest in the history of our commerce, while, as already indicated, those of the eleven months ending with November are larger than those of any full calendar year prior to 1885.

Of breadstuffs the exports for the eleven months ending with November, 1898, are the largest in our history, being \$77,151,541, or \$22,211,512 in the great increase over the year of 1887; provisions are for the eleven months, \$18,417,809, against \$12,977,067 in the eleven months of 1887. Cotton for the eleven months amounts to \$12,323,291, a figure slightly below that of the eleven months of 1887, but the total number of pounds exported by far exceeds that of the corresponding months in any preceding year, being for the eleven months \$4,860,204, or, measured in bales, \$22,883, a large total in bales or pounds, more than that of any full calendar year preceding.

The import record of the year 1898 will be as remarkable as that relating to its exports, but for good reasons. The imports for the year being less than those of any calendar year since 1885. For the month of November they were but \$210,959,000, which was slightly less than those of November, 1887, and less than those of any month of November since 1885. For the eleven months ending with November they were but \$2,034,143, while those of the corresponding months of 1887 were \$2,086,000, and those of the eleven months of 1888, \$2,238,856. It is thus apparent that the imports for the full calendar year 1898 will not exceed \$2,000,000,000, a sum less than that of any calendar year since 1885, and fully a hundred million less than that of the calendar year 1887.

With the largest exports in our history, and the smallest imports in many years, the year 1898 will naturally show the largest balance of trade in our favor ever presented in any calendar year. The figures for the eleven months show an excess of exports over imports amounting to \$57,837,046, and it is quite apparent that the December statement will bring the total excess of exports for the calendar year above the \$60,000,000 line, making an average excess of exports for the year more than \$50,000,000 a month, while the highest excess of exports in any preceding calendar year was \$37,609,914, in 1897, and \$24,365,035 in 1885.

With the largest exports of merchandise in our history and smallest imports in many years comes the largest importation of gold in any calendar year. The gold imports for the eleven months ending with November are, in round terms, \$150,000,000, the accurate figures being \$149,305,270, while no full calendar year save 1896 ever reached the \$100,000,000 line, and in that year the total for the eleven months was but \$104,721,259, against \$149,305,270 in 1898.

The following table shows the imports and exports of merchandise and gold in each calendar year since 1885, and the eleven months of 1898.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Gold—Imports.	Gold—Exports.
1885.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1886.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1887.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1888.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1889.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1890.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1891.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1892.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1893.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1894.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1895.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1896.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1897.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549
1898.	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549	\$101,359,549

Representative Curtis is able to leave his room and will participate in the deliberations of the house within a few days.

## THE CUBANS CELEBRATE.

Enthusiastic Exercises Held in Celebration of the Evacuation of Marianna.

HAVANA, Dec. 19.—The Cubans on Sunday celebrated the evacuation of Marianna on invitation of the alcalde, Senor Gomez de la Manza. Every street was decorated with American and Cuban flags intertwined and at several points were erected triumphal arches, bearing suitable inscriptions. The streets were thronged with people, and the town in the morning.

A breakfast was given at noon in the Hotel El Oriente. General Lee was invited to it, but being unable to be present, he was represented by Colonel Armistead, commander of the brigade, second division, and Captain R. G. Faxon, brigade adjutant.

The Cubans were most enthusiastic. Among the speeches was one by Julio Rengulio, who declared that the Cubans look upon the evacuation of Marianna as a great triumph, and that the evacuation of the city was a great triumph for the Cuban cause.

The Spanish authorities have taken strict measures to prevent any disturbances. The streets are heavily guarded, and the Cubans are being watched closely. The Spanish authorities are taking every precaution to prevent any disturbances.

"A Woburn Omen." A certain bishop in England was a newcomer to his diocese and thought to inspire his clergy to take occasional services and to take a holiday by periodically visiting and taking one himself. On one of these occasions, having found a good congregation and having been moved to eloquence in his sermon, he felt a momentary desire to know if he had made any mistakes in his sermon. He turned to some questions to the old clerk who was helping him enrobe in the vestry. "Well, my lord," said the clerk, "I have not heard of any mistakes, but I have heard of a great many omen."

The conference report on the urgent deficiency bill was read.

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## CZAR IS DISHEARTENED.

He "Does Not Find Our Civilization Good" and Only Anarchy Is Ahead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A dispatch from London says: At the great public conference last Sunday afternoon in St. James hall favoring the international ratification of the czar's peace proposition, William T. Stead said that though he could not give the exact words of the czar in a recent interview, he did so in a very good way. I see nations all engaged in seizing, or trying to seize, all territory not yet occupied by European powers. I look at the results. They do not seem to me to be good.

"For the native races, what does imperialism exploit? The often ignorant, alcoholic and all manner of foul diseases, a great evil between the governed and those who rule, and enmeshing taxation upon the natives for the blessings of this civilization."

"And for the nations who seize, what does it mean? A continual increase of Russian jealousy and rivalry, the increasing of fleets and armies in order to take part in a scramble with the world, with the result that the army and the navy are swallowing up more and more of the people and the improvement of the world."

"Top are a few very rich and comfortable. Down below with an ever increasing pressure of taxes for armaments, the masses of poor people, whose position is not very good, there is an ever increasing multitude of those below with most of them spending their money in idleness and developing into all kinds of anarchy."

"I do not find our civilization good. Why do we make it so? We have at the present moment arrived at this stage that the czar is only a very last man in the army. So much that we cannot mobilize the whole of our troops in Europe, and we are spending more money in the army than we are in the navy."

"War has become so expensive that no state can afford to keep a large standing army. We are spending more money in the army than we are in the navy. We are spending more money in the army than we are in the navy. We are spending more money in the army than we are in the navy."

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